

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-79. (Canceled)

80. (New) A vacuum sealed package comprising:

a vacuum-sealed bag comprising a laminate, the laminate comprising an exterior portion and an interior portion, the interior portion having less than 1 ppm hexanal, wherein the laminate further comprises an oxygen barrier layer and a moisture barrier layer, further wherein the laminate has an oxygen permeability no greater than 0.13 cc/100 ins.² in about one day; and

frangible oat-based cereal pieces having a shelf life and a crush resistance no less than 14.7 PSIA, the frangible oat-based cereal pieces contained within the interior portion of the laminate, wherein rancidity of the frangible oat-based cereal pieces is eliminated due to containment in the vacuum sealed package having the oxygen and moisture barrier layers, further wherein the shelf life of the frangible oat-based cereal pieces is nearly doubled as compared with frangible oat-based cereal pieces contained in a non vacuum-sealed bag, wherein vacuum-sealing allows the package to be filled with approximately 20 to 60% more frangible oat-based cereal pieces.

81. (New) The vacuum sealed package of claim 80 wherein the laminate has an oxygen permeability no greater than 0.05 cc/100 ins.² in about one day.

82. (New) The vacuum sealed package of claim 80 wherein the laminate has an oxygen permeability no greater than 0.02 cc/100 ins.² in about one day.

83. (New) The vacuum sealed package of claim 80 wherein the moisture barrier layer comprises a metallized polymeric composite.

84. (New) The vacuum sealed package of claim 80 wherein the moisture barrier layer is a coating exterior of an oxygen barrier coating.

85. (New) The vacuum sealed package of claim 80 wherein the vacuum-sealed bag is opaque.